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A non-apology apology for a non-existent crime against humanity

by Will Nicholls

So Canada's House of Commons passed a motion last week calling on the federal government to apologize to residential school survivors. Hell, it even passed unanimously, 257-0.

Even though Conservative government MPs voted for the motion, the smoke and mirrors that Ottawa has employed for a century continues, however.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice said a formal apology from the government is still years away, which basically means it could never happen.

And what's to apologize for? Is it the missing children of the residential schools? Is it the century of overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of health care that lead to so many deaths of these children? Is it the fact that these children were taken so they would have a level of education that they would never have the opportunity to use? The systematic sexual abuse?

Is it the fact that it was only in the year 2000 that Canada finally adopted a limited definition of genocide, which excluded the forcible transfer of children from one culture to another (as included in UN definitions)?

Canadian courts have rejected charges of genocide against the federal government because no such laws were in effect while residential schools were operating. This argument has never been accepted under international law. To actively encourage or ensure genocide of a people has always been prosecuted without regard to whether or not there was a law within the country in question before or after the fact.

Knowing this does not lessen the degree of outrage one feels at

such smug assertions by a court of law within Canada. It in fact not only increases it but says very clearly what some Native leaders have been saying all along. The rule of law within Canada is not the rule of law for all Canadians when First Nations are included. It is a law of the dominant society used to excuse the crimes of that society.

As First Nations we cannot expect to have a fair trial no matter what well-meaning members of the Canadian society may want or desire. Children of the world want dignity and respect and we wish to give it to them. What then does this blind spot within Canadian society and law mean? Is it the less-than-subtle racist First Nations live with?

One only has to look at the over-representation of First Nations persons in jail to understand there is something wrong. One only has to look at the statistics of missing women and the over-representation of Aboriginal heritage in those missing to know the practices of the past continue to this day.

The policy of the eradication of the North American "Indian" may not be such an overt act these days but it is nevertheless a present reality for those who lead lives that are damaged by crimes that have gone unpunished.

Yes, the actions of genocide may not be continued in the same manner but they are felt and perpetuated. One only has to look at the federal government's suggestion we move an entire First Nations community to Timmins to realize the policy of extinguishment continues unabated though undoubtedly under a new name.

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on the cover

Photography: Cheryl Tom

Design: Cheryl Tom

El turismo, a climate change omen



The figure, just a distant dot to the west, moved surprisingly quickly. No sound was heard, so a snowmobile was out of the question. What or who was it? It came in a zigzag, zipping back and forth.

Soon it became clear, it was a man. But how did he seem to move so swiftly over the ice of the Hudson Bay? In a matter of moments he swooped up to the stunned onlookers and right after that his kite came down from the sky. Aha! A para-skier it came to be known and perhaps one of the more unique tourists to come north.

Benoit, as his name turned out to be, is quite the extraordinary person. He has his own web site about his incredible trip across the former Soviet Union by bicycle. He was stricken with cerebral palsy when he was an infant and just growing up was hard for him, but somehow it created a man who just wouldn't quit. His trip took him across many cities and towns, and he had to resort to living with just about anyone who would take him in, eating whatever came to his plate and drinking vodka everyday made the trip bearable enough to make the pains go away.

As he ventured across the vast wilderness he came across many indigenous peoples who knew nothing of the outside world. On another path, he would be invited to host his own TV show from a small station in one of the many "small" communities the size of Montreal, immediately exposing him to

people across the north. This sort of eased the hassle of finding food and a place to stay and. Not so surprisingly, vodka was always available.

Next, he tackled northern Quebec, this time using wind to power his trip, towing a hand-made sled using time honored Inuit methods. A video camera to record his passage and a portable computer formed the bulk of his baggage. The only problem was that the winds weren't quite right, so it took him all of nine days to traverse the rough ice.

Hanging around Great Whale for awhile and inspiring the youth to get into something different, he later swooped off towards the Ungava Peninsula. I think he said he'd be back before the ice melted, which could be a little dicey, considering global warming and all.

Yep, tourists come in all shapes and forms. Some may be just like you and me, and some may be like Benoit the para-skier who defies gravity to get around. But in whatever form they be, the tourists are coming north to see global warming in the making, only if they have enough time to get out of all that bad weather they're bound to get from icebergs plopping into the seas at alarming rates.

Whatever happens, the north is now in seen in the same perspective of southerners as are the disappearing rainforests of more tropical climes. They're coming to get a last taste of the frozen north while they can.

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EDITORIAL BOARD
W. Nicholls, L. Stewart, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Steve Bonspiel

IYIYU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR
Lyle Stewart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
X. Kataquapit, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY
S. Bonspiel, D. Valade, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Cheryl Tom

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Danielle Valade, Christina Groom

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Claire MacKinnon

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
Cheryl Tom

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

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MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE

5647 PARC AVE. PO. BOX 48036

MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

ADS- VAL D'OR-CHIBOUGAMAU REGION

TEL.: 514-285-8986

The Nation HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.beesum-communications.com

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com

groom@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

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Small is beautiful, says Chief Mark

Wemindji taking practical approach to wind farms

by Steve Bonspiel

Wemindji is the latest community to throw its collective hat into the wind power ring with a cautious debut in the wind power industry, according to their chief.

Two years ago the chief and council visited a wind power company based in Montreal called 3 CI, which has completed numerous projects in Murdochville. The idea slowly gained steam and a plan is taking shape.

"We've had a lot of people come into our community make presentations on large wind farms," said Wemindji Chief Rodney Mark. "I met this company through an associate. We talked about doing a practical wind farm, not a mega project. That's what they were looking for and they were interested in James Bay territory."

The nine-megawatt proposal still has many kinks to work out – such as economic and environmental impact studies – but Chief Rodney Mark is confident it will work.

"We're going to try to open the door for the possibility of expansion as well, but I have indicated to our partner that we're not interested in building a farm of 100 megawatts," Chief Rodney Mark told the Nation. "We are interested in building a wind program, but at a practical, profitable rate."

One megawatt is enough to power 250 houses.

The Grand Council of the Crees passed a resolution in support of the dialogue between the Wemindji council and Hydro Quebec.

"I'm excited that the Grand Council supported it," said the chief. "I don't know how it's all going to pan out, but I'm very optimistic in the process of it."

He also said that the project would be presented at the Annual General Assembly in August to answer any questions commu-

nity members might have. By December the project should be deep into the planning stages and Mark says that a special meeting in March 2008 will gauge the interest within the community. After that a band resolution could be passed to give the band council the go ahead.

"There have been studies to expand the mini-dam in the community, but the tallymen were not in favour, so we're looking at other alternatives," said Mark. "What I want to do with the revenue it will generate, I'd like to see more programs that take care of the environment. These are things we'll have to look at."


The mini-dam, on the Maquatua River, is a joint venture between Hydro Quebec and Wemindji. It provides a small amount of power to the community, but the \$15-million wind farm, which will consist of at least three turbines, would be built to generate profit for the community's youth, social and health programs.

A location near the Sarcelles powerhouse is currently being studied for the future site of the massive turbines.

"We're also looking at biomass and geothermal and those kinds of things," he said.

Mark said that the power generated from the wind farm would not be used within the community, choosing instead to sell all of it to Hydro Quebec. The jobs and economic spin-offs have yet to be calculated, but Mark said it could only help strengthen the economy in the community of 1,200.

A board of directors will be created to oversee the project once it is approved. Revenues and expenses, according to Chief Mark, will be split 50-50 for the joint effort, which could take two or more years to be built.



Official Court Notice

The Indian residential schools settlement has been approved. The healing continues.

The Indian residential schools settlement has been approved by the Courts. Now, former students and their families must decide whether to stay in the settlement or remove themselves (opt out). This notice describes the settlement benefits and how to get them for those who stay in, and it explains what it means to opt out and how to opt out.

The settlement provides:

1) At least \$1.9 billion for "common experience" payments to former students who lived at one of the schools. Payments will be \$10,000 for the first school year (or part of a school year) plus \$3,000 for each school year (or part of a school year) after that.

2) A process to allow those who suffered sexual or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects, to get between \$5,000 and \$275,000 each—or more money if they can show a loss of income.

3) Money for programmes for former students and their families for healing, truth, reconciliation, and commemoration of the residential schools and the abuses suffered: \$125 million for healing; \$60 million to research, document, and preserve the experiences of the survivors; and \$20 million for national and community commemorative projects.

You won't have to show you were abused to get a common experience payment, and you can get one even if you had an abuse lawsuit, and even if you won, settled, or lost.

Eligible former students who stay in the settlement can get a payment

from it. Family members who were not students will not get payments. However, former students—and family members—who stay in the settlement will never again be able to sue the Government of Canada, the Churches who joined in the settlement, or any other defendant in the class actions, over residential schools.

Your Options Now

Request a Claim Form

If you are a former student and you want a payment from the settlement, and you never want to sue the Government of Canada or the Churches on your own, do not opt out; instead, call now to register and a claim form will be mailed to you after August 20, 2007. When it arrives, fill it out and return it.

Remove Yourself (Opt Out)

If you don't want a payment, or you think you can get more money than the settlement provides by suing the Government or the Churches on your own, then you must opt out by submitting an Opt Out Form postmarked by August 20, 2007.

Do Nothing: get no payment, give up rights to sue.

1-866-879-4913
www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca

If you want to stay in the settlement and receive a payment from it, call 1-866-879-4913, or go to the website, and request that a claim form be sent to you as soon as it is ready.

If you opt out from the settlement you will not get any payment from it. However, former students or family members who opt out will keep any right they may have to sue over residential schools.

To opt out, you must complete, sign, and mail an Opt Out Form postmarked by **August 20, 2007**. You can get the form at the website below, or by calling 1-866-879-4913.

You don't have to hire a lawyer to opt out, but you may want to consult one before you do. If you stay in the settlement, you don't have to hire and pay a lawyer to get a common experience payment. Of course, you may hire your own lawyer and pay that lawyer to represent you with an abuse claim.

Call 1-866-879-4913 with questions, or go to www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca to read a detailed notice or the settlement agreement. You may also write with questions to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber St. North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9.

IND-PUB2-MD-ENG

First People's Fest tackles sexual identity issues

133 Skyway

Rez show honours Alanis Obomsawin

by Steve Bonspiel

This year's edition of the First People's Festival is aiming to shed light on the often overlooked, sometimes shunned topic of homosexuality.

The featured film *Back to the Circle* is about the affirmation of two-spirited people from both sexes. Baron Chief Moon is a biography that explores the way we look at Aboriginal sexuality and use those differences to shape the way we live.

"For him, being two-spirited is not only about sexual orientation, but it's a way of life, a perspective that helps him in his creation," said Festival Director Andre Dudemaine.

"It's also a way for him to connect with his own First Nation's tradition."

The gay and lesbian film festival *Image+Nation* will also be screening these important works.

"It will help to enlighten people and see the realities of First Nations communities that we don't always hear about," said Dudemaine. "This [gay programming] is something that is really strong and it's something happening now, so we have to take note of it and put it in our programming. It was long overdue and I'm happy the subject has come to the forefront."

The schedule for these films had not been finalized



as of press time.

The First People's Festival gives Aboriginal artists a showcase for their videos, films and visual arts. It's always very interesting and this year is no exception.

Put on by Terres en Vues/Land Insights, the 2007 edition will run from June 10 to 21 and is sure to be a hit with all ages.

Starting this year, there will be a special outdoor presentation for kids in collaboration with APTN. The afternoon of Friday, June 15, will see characters Mikuan and Ashini and Shanpiap take the stage and come to life. Based on Innu stories and shot in the Huron village, these loveable little guys communicate in French and Innu and are seen as an important way for Innu youngsters to learn and retain their language.

After a one-year hiatus, the Rez White and Blues show is back! After being ditched at the last second by the broadcaster last year, the festival will be concentrating on a smaller venue, O Patro Vys Hall, and the party will be spread out

"This [gay programming] is something that is really strong and it's something happening now, so we have to take note of it and put it in our programming. It was long overdue and I'm happy the subject has come to the forefront."

...continued on page 31



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A few safety tips

- Be aware that **colliding with a deer or a moose isn't something that only happens to other people!** Obey the speed limits, and always stay alert, especially in areas where signs indicate that deer or moose are often present.
- **Be even more careful** during the times of day that pose the greatest risk of collisions with animals, namely **dawn and dusk**, and especially in **June, July, October, and November**.
- Be extra vigilant in areas where visibility is reduced due to the presence of curves, hills, or dense vegetation along the road. **If you suspect that there are any deer or moose alongside the road, slow down immediately.** These animals are nervous and unpredictable, and they can dart onto the roadway very suddenly.
- Tap on your brakes several times in order to **signal the presence of deer, moose, or similar animals to**

drivers who are following behind you. Keep in mind that these animals often travel in small groups, especially in the case of white-tailed deer. If one of these animals crosses the road in front of your vehicle, slow down and be on the lookout for others that might be following it.

- **Never make an abrupt manoeuvre** in a last-minute attempt to avoid hitting an animal. Doing so could cause a much more serious accident. In most cases, if a collision seems imminent, your best option is to slow down and brake gradually. In the case of a white-tailed deer, it is often better to hit the animal than to try to avoid it.
- Finally, do not rely on gadgets that are available on the market (e.g.: deer whistles) to ensure your safety. These devices have not been proven to be effective. **Your best bet is a commitment to defensive driving.**



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Commons vote calls for residential schools apology

Members of the all political parties stood together in the House of Commons May 2 to call for an official government apology to residential school survivors.

The Liberal motion passed 257-0.

Despite full Conservative support for the motion, Tory Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice said a formal apology could be years away as he concentrates on implementing a compensation deal worth more than \$2 billion. Prentice said he prefers to wait until the Truth and Reconciliation Commission deems an apology necessary or warranted.

"How can Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Indian Affairs Minister still argue that an apology is not warranted?" countered Liberal Indian Affairs Critic Anita Neville.

"The facts behind the sad legacy of the residential schools era are well established. Indian Residential schools were places of disease, hunger, overcrowding and despair. Many children died."

The offer to about 80,000 former residential school students is expected to be finalized by September.

The former Liberal government acknowledged in 1998 that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant for much of the last century.

UN honours Inuit activist Watt-Cloutier

Environmental activist Sheila Watt-Cloutier is the recipient of a United Nations lifetime achievement award for human development.

The 53-year-old Watt-Cloutier will receive the 2007 Mahbub ul Haq Award for Outstanding Contributions to Human Development in New York City on June 20. The honour is in recognition of her work fighting global warming.

She also recently received the Order of Canada and is a current Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

The final judging panel determined that Watt-Cloutier has influenced development groups and policy leaders around the world.

The award is named after Mahbub ul Haq, a renowned economist from Pakistan and one of the founders of human development theory.

The prize goes to a "world leader who has successfully put human development at the heart of the national development agenda in his or her country," according to the United Nations development program's website.

Watt-Cloutier was chosen from more than 50 entries by a panel that included Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, former Bolivian president Jorge Quiroga and Princess Basma of Jordan.

In February, she was nominated along with former U.S. vice-president Al Gore for the Nobel Peace Prize for their work to raise awareness about the impact of climate change.

Polar bear numbers rising: Inuit elders

Inuit elders are saying that more polar bears need to be hunted to control the population in Nunavut's western Hudson Bay area.

Elders and hunters from the territory's Kivalliq region told the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board during public consultations April 24 in Arviat that they have noticed more encounters with polar bears in recent years.

The wildlife board held the consultations to seek feedback on proposals from Nunavut's environment department to reduce polar bear hunting on western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay.

The government is concerned the polar bear population is declining, citing data from the Canadian Wildlife Service indicating the number has dropped below 1,000 bears, as their habitat is threatened by shrinking ice cover in the far north.

Territorial Environment Minister Patterk Netser has given the wildlife board a number of formal recommendations that call for reductions in the polar bear harvest in those areas, with the most drastic option being a moratorium on hunting for a period of time until the bears' numbers increase.

But many elders at the meeting gave examples of frightening encounters with the bears – encounters they say are happening more often.

Other elders voiced concern that the wildlife board is only considering Canadian Wildlife Service data, and overlooking Inuit traditional knowledge.

The findings will be studied and after more consultations in Pond Inlet, the board will decide what steps to take.

Suicide prevention program ineffective – survey

Health Canada is failing to curb the high aboriginal youth suicide rate, according to a survey of suicide prevention workers conducted earlier this year.

The survey by Ekos Research Associates, submitted to Health Canada in March, consisted of telephone interviews between January and March by 34 people working in the field of Aboriginal suicide prevention, including front-line health-care workers, consultants and academics.

Interviewees "generally dismissed the resources because they were thought to be culturally irrelevant, inappropriately worded, and lacking in actionable solutions," the report read.

"Several interviewees mentioned finding large numbers of materials sitting untouched in piles at post offices and hospitals and, distressingly, many suicide prevention workers said that materials were often discarded before anyone had the chance to look at them.

"Government-created materials and resources did not receive many favourable mentions from interviewees because they are often seen as unnecessary, ineffective, and wasteful of tax dollars," the report added.

Some workers emphasized getting youth involved in hands-on activities, such as building hockey rinks and holding fashion shows and talent contests.

Survey respondents said they would prefer the government create multimedia kits for front-line workers that would include comic books, DVDs of "success story" testimonials from Aboriginal youth and youth workers, as well as links to suicide prevention websites and toll-free telephone hotlines.

Although people in isolated areas admitted that more material on suicide prevention is needed in their areas.

The Nation Summer Guide

A feast of festivals

by Amy German

Finally spring has sprung! The days are lengthening and growing warmer. Vacation season approaches. If you are planning to visit other regions of Quebec this summer, now is the time to start researching as this province hosts a phenomenal amount of festivals and celebrations that suit just about anyone's tastes.

For your recreational enlightenment, *the Nation* has once again compiled a list of top-notch festivals, happenings, activities and gatherings to make your vacation planning easier. Whether it is family time you have in mind, a romantic getaway, deeply steeping yourself in foreign cultures or sampling the bounty that la belle province has to offer, we almost certainly will have something that piques your interest.

Montreal's Festive Festivals

As locals, we often gripe about the never-ending festivals in this city that make it hard to keep track of what's happening on your own street corner. But, let's face it: as a tourist destination, Montreal is where it's at! Montreal has it all going on, from jazz with pizzazz to "Folies" with the Franco...phones and getting perspective on the retrospective... of Expo 67, that is.

Chamber music

To ease the city into the season, first up on the festival roster is the 12th annual Montreal Chamber Music Festival. From May 3 - June 2, chamber music enthusiasts will have the opportunity to take in the likes of Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," Beethoven sonatas for cello and piano, a Franz Schubert 12-hour marathon and so much more in a spectacular new venue. The spectacularly renovated St-James Church in the heart of downtown Montreal has become the new home for this festival of sweet sounds. Even if you are not in town for the festival, taking in the St-James's breathtaking, freshly restored beauty can grant its own satisfaction. Info: www.festivalmontreal.org/

Museum open house

If you've ever wanted to take a tour of as many museums as one person can handle during the course of one day, the Quebecor 21st annual Museums Day is the ultimate, drawing over 120,000 participants annually. With 27 participating museums, patrons have the option of either boarding a shuttle bus or going from venue to venue themselves and taking in what Montreal's museums have to offer for the nominal charge of... nothing! On Sunday, May 27, all participating museums lift their fares and let the public in for free. For more information on this fabulous museum open house: www.museesmontreal.org/site/museumsday.htm

Bike fests

Shifting into the spring season into high gear is the Montreal Bike Festival on May 27. Kicking off the city's cycling season, over 3,000 cyclists will take over Beloeil (on Montreal's south shore) for 75, 100, 125 or 150 km bike tours. Natrel milk will be provided for the cyclists at the scheduled lunch spot, and at the finish line "Fromages D'ici" provides edible treats. Both Volkswagen and Purex have little surprises for participants. As this event is also the first in a series of three, and if you are a big time cycling enthusiast, it might be a good idea to book a few days in Montreal with your bike. Velo Quebec will also be putting on "Un Tour La Nuit," June 1,

when 12,000 cyclists embark on a night-time, 20-km cycling journey through the streets of Montreal. Kicking off at 8:30 from Rosemont Boulevard, treats and surprises will also be offered. Of course, if you are feeling really, really athletic, join 30,000 others in the mother of all cycling events, The Tour de l'Île de Montréal. On Sunday, June 3, the annual 50 km event delights cycling tourists from around the world. Yet more cheese (what is it with cyclists and cheese?) will also be provided for those who will tour the island on two wheels.

For more information or to register for any of these events, go to: www.velo.qc.ca/

Electronica

Of course, if you'd rather get your groove on with two feet on the ground, Mutek, Montreal's premiere underground electronic music festival, is back in its eighth edition and is bigger and better than ever! From May 30-June 3, over 100 celebrated global digital artists will create spectacular and sophisticated showcases of electronic music and arts. The event will feature a number of indoor shows. Special events include outdoor dance parties at Île Jean-Drapeau at the Piknic Electronique dance party site. Shows range in prices but five-day event passes are a flat rate. For more information: www.mutek.ca/

Beer bonanza

If you are serious about your suds, there is no better place to sample the world's finest in beer than Le Mondial de la bière, Montreal's ultimate beer festival. From May 30-June 3

Windsor Station and its courtyard will be transformed into the ultimate beer hall, featuring more than 350 products and about 100 new beers. To balance the suds after some hefty "sampling," various vendors will also be hawking various edibles, ideally paired to go with beer.

For more information go to: www.festivalmondialbiere.qc.ca/

Fantastic Fringe

The St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival, from June 7-17, is the city's only annual festival of theatre, dance, and performance art. It's also the only bilingual, bicultural festival on the international Fringe circuit. With 11 full days of indoor and outdoor shows, live music and a hopping beer tent, this event is a favourite for many Montrealers and tourists alike! Now in its 17th edition, the festival where anyone can perform just about anything is back and with many old favourites and loads of new performances. For more info: www.montrealfringe.ca



Grand Prix

If speed, engines and a globalized glam scene of the rich and pampered make your heart palpitate, Montreal's Grand Prix is likely to be your idea of heaven! From June 8-10, the downtown transforms into a Formula One racing wonderland, featuring street parties, vintage car displays, fashion shows and black and white checkered flags hanging from every available night spot. Getting into the spirit of the weekend, local retailers will frequently redesign their storefronts for the event and speciality racing shops open up for paraphernalia seekers. The main event goes down on Sunday, June 10, at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve but it's vital to reserve early for this event, as tickets tend to go fast. For more information: www.grand-prix.ca/

Fireworks fest

One of Montreal's most celebrated annual events is l'International des Feux Loto-Québec, also known as the Fireworks festival. Since the competition began back in 1985, the fireworks fest has averaged 2.3 million viewers, gathering at either La Ronde, on the Jacques Cartier Bridge, or on either side of the river. This year's edition runs from June 30 through July 28 and will feature eight competing countries: Spain, England, Mexico, Hong Kong/ China, USA, Canada, France and Germany. For more information: www.internationaldesfeuxlotoquebec.com

Nationalism the fun way

If you've never experienced la Fête nationale in an urban setting, hitting the big city for St-Jean Baptiste Day is an ideal way to get your Quebec politics and culture kick. Some of the biggest names in Quebecois music will be hitting the big stage at Parc Maisonneuve for a one-night blow out bash. On Saturday, June 24, come and see the likes of Normand Brathwaite, Éric Lapointe, Nanette Workman, Garou, Dobacaracol and many more in this spectacular free outdoor show. There will also be a series of shows in various different Montreal boroughs. To check out show times and to get more information on what will be happening in Montreal for la Fête St-Jean, go to: www.cfn.org/accueil.html

All that jazz

Now in its 28th Edition, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal is back and jam packed with musical gems, fun, excitement and festivities. This year will see 2,500 musicians from across the planet in the city from June 28 to July 8 for an extravaganza of the best in jazz, soul, blues, traditional music, electro and folk. Though the outdoor stage schedule has not

yet been released, the indoor concert schedule is looking hot! Fantastic classics like Keith Jarrett, Bob Dylan, Harry Connick Jr. and Wynton Marsalis will grace Montreal stages as will Louisianan Zachary Richard and French artist Francis Cabrel. In a mega-spectacular, Latin-alternative crossover sensation Manu Chao with the Radio Bemba Sound System and guests will play at Parc Jean-Drapeau. Béla Fleck & The Flecktones with Victor Wooten, Future Man and Jeff Coffin, with special guest and honorary Flecktone Howard Levy and North Mississippi All Stars will play a very special show at Place-des-Arts. Local sensation Oliver Jones will share the same bill as Susie Arioli with I Musici for a magical evening of jazz and swing. Commemorating the tenth anniversary of the death of the father of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti, Antibalas and Femi Kuti & The Positive Force will be joining forces and sharing the same bill. Canadian jazz-pop sensation Holly Cole will be returning to showcase her new album. Dolores O'Riordan, former front-chick of The Cranberries will make her solo debut. There are so many acts playing at this year's event that we couldn't even dream about listing them all in one article and the festival has not even released their outdoor stage programming. To get updates, buy tickets or for any other information, go to: www.montrealjazzfest.com/

La Fête du Canada

If you are already in town for the jazz fests, take in some of the many Canada Day festivities July 1. Every year Montreal throws a mega bash in the Old Port and transforms the quay area into a playground for activities the whole family can enjoy. This year's celebrations are expected to run from 10 am to 10 pm with over 200 free activities. Festivities kick off with the annual benefit walk for the Hudson's Bay Company's young athletes program. There will also be free giant birthday cakes, a parade, acrobatic skiing, guided outings aboard canoes, kayaks and rabaskas, rafting and a climbing tower. For the wee ones there are all sorts of craft activities like mask making, sand castles, soap bubbles, paper planes and inflatable structures featuring themes such as the Tsunami slide, Pirates of the Caribbean, Kiddie Garden, the Fortress and Dungeon, and Roller-coaster. The sugar shack will also be back this year, packed with delicious maple goodies to keep everyone energetic. At night, the scene heats up with an all-Canadian showcase of performers, including Frédéric De Grandpré, Boom Desjardins, Annie Villeneuve, Gage, Jeff Martin, Jeremy Fisher, le groupe André, Melissa Lavergne, Cirque Envol, le groupe Asani and Lafas Druméria. The evening will close with the traditional Canada Day fireworks.

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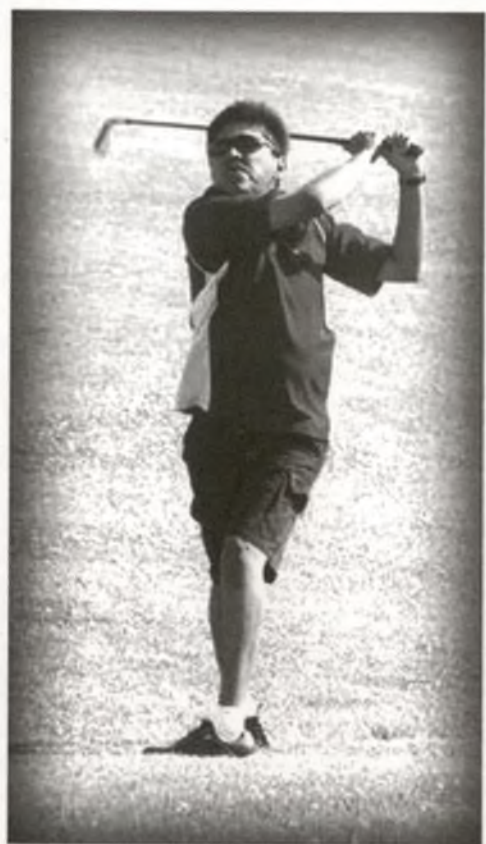
The Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge in Waskaganish took the gold in the Lodging category at the "Grands Prix du Tourisme Québécois 2007" regional section organized by Tourisme Baie-James.



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Laughs et Rires galore

It's hard to believe but the world's biggest comedy festival bash, Just for Laughs/ Juste pour rire, is celebrating its silver anniversary! The fun gears up on July 8 and runs until July 29, with the majority of English shows and outdoor events between July 12 and July 22. Some of the biggest stars of comedy today are lined up: Howie Mandel, George Lopez, Russell Peters, Eddie Izzard, Billy Connolly, Louis CK.

A special feature this year is a live reading from the cast of *The Family Guy*, starring Seth MacFarlane, Alex Borstein, Mila Kunis, Seth Green and Mike Henry. There will also be a live presentation from the cast of "How I Met Your Mother," starring Neil Patrick Harris, Alyson Hannigan, Josh Radnor, Jason Segal and Cobie Smulders entitled *Celebrity Autobiography*.

Don't miss the live the world premiere of a new show from Kids in the Hall with the original cast. Many favorites from previous years are also coming back like Tommy Tieman, John Pinette, Susie Essman, Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, Dom Irrera, Dave Attell, André-Philippe Gagnon, Sinbad, Greg Proops, Lewis Black, Jeremy Hotz, and Andy Kindler. There are so many new features and brand spanking new shows happening at this year's comedy festival for their big 25th birthday bash that it would practically take a phone book to describe them all. Check out the festival's website for more information or to purchase tickets at www.hahaha.com

Fun-tasia

One of the best ways to escape the dead heat of July is at the movies and if you've already seen the summer's blockbusters, why not check out some imported delights at Vision Globale's Fantasia Festival? On the bill for this year's edition are films from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom. The Fantasia festival runs from July 5-23 and while the complete schedule has not yet been released, many impressive works have debuted here, including last summer's blockbuster *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*. For more information: www.fantasiafestival.com

FrancoFolies

If la Fête nationale failed to satisfy your franco fetish, the FrancoFolies de Montréal has all the medicine you need, and more. Though last year's festivities went down in June, the FrancoFolies are back in their usual time slot, running from July 25 through August 5. The line up for the outdoor

stages will not be announced until early July, but the indoor show schedule is already up and is promising a few can't-miss shows. On the playbill for this year's indoor shows are: Loco Locass Symphonique, Vincent Vallières, Misia, Jeanne Cherhal, Juliette Gréco, Marie Mai, Barbara Carlotti, Grand Corps Malade, Emilie Simon, Abd Al Malik, Calogero, Marie Jo Thério, Chloé Sainte-Marie, Karkwa, Stefie Shock, TTC, Numéro#, Judi Richards and many more. Tickets are already on sale for the main events and are going fast. Pour de plus amples renseignements : www.francofolies.com

Bringing together athletics and ancient Asian culture, the **Montreal International Dragon Boat Race** features live entertainment, arts and crafts, vendors and a wide range of delectable ethnic delicacies. To keep the kiddies expressing themselves creatively, the ever-popular children's drawing contest is also back. There's also a race. Over 200 teams from across North America compete in this free event that is sure to please everyone young and old. www.montrealdragonboat.com/

Pride but no prejudice

Now in its 15th edition, Montreal's Divers/Cité, gay and lesbian pride celebration returns for five full days of festivities. Originally created to celebrate the diversity of the gay community through multidisciplinary performing arts and openness with the world, Divers/Cité attracts tourist from around the globe. Though the schedule is not yet available, dance parties, outdoor shows and the annual pride parade are booked from August 1-5 and it's open to everyone. For more information go to: www.diverscite.org

That's a NASCAR!

If Formula 1 racing wasn't enough for you, get your motor running at Montreal's first ever NASCAR Busch Series event August 3-4. The fastest growing motorsport in North America, this event is bound to attract visitors from across Canada and the U.S. A 10-year deal was inked in 2006 between the City of Montreal and motorsport promoter Normand Legault to bring NASCAR to Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. The NASCAR Busch Series will haul 43 of its Chevy, Ford and Dodge stock cars to the Saint Helen's island for two solid days of thrills, chills and global warming. For more info: www.nascar.com/

Love and aces

If tennis is your game, The Rogers Cup, Men's Edition is being held in Montreal this year at Uniprix stadium in Jarry Park from Saturday, August

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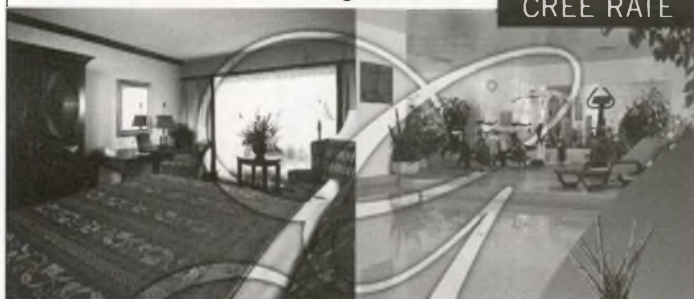
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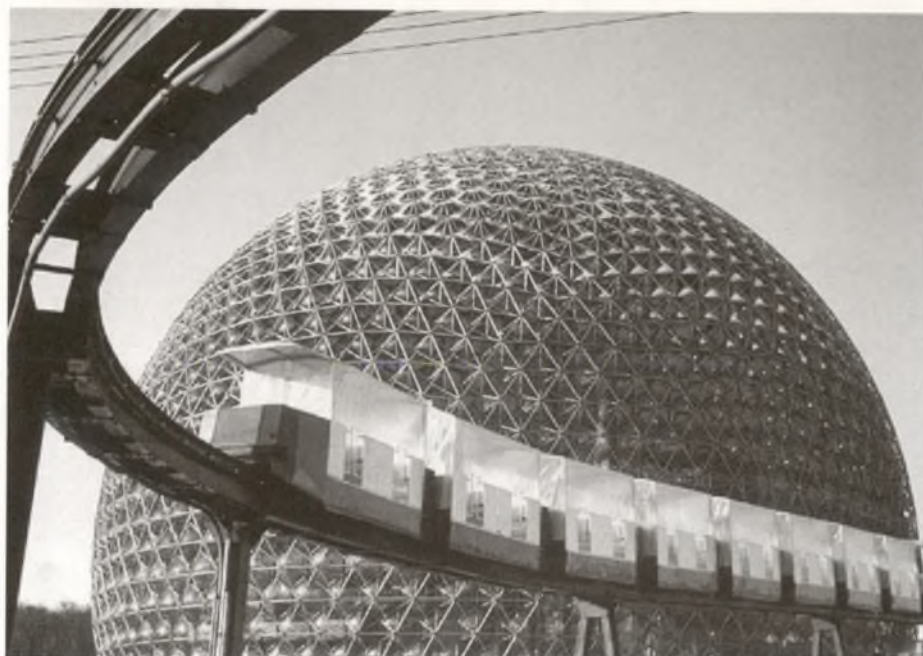


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4, through Sunday, August 12. Tickets for this event vary dramatically in price, depending on the match. For more information: www.rogerscup-men.com

Highland hijinx

Whether you are of Celtic descent or not, the Montreal Highland Games, Montreal's premiere Scottish festival is back for another wild day of caber tossing, bag piping, haggis eating fun! For thirty years now, Montreal has been host to this popular event, attracting between 40 and 50 pipe bands annually, making it the one of the largest pipe band competitions in North America. Take in some highland dancing or Scottish country dancing whilst sipping fine Scottish ale or sit back and enjoy the fiddle playing. There are over 60 vendors offering a wide array of Celtic goods. The little ones get their own corner with inflated bounce rides, pony rides and other activities designed especially for them. On Sunday, August 5, everyone is Scottish, so bring the whole family for a day of fun. For directions and information go to www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca/

Le blues de la métropole

If the blues soothe your soul, FestiBlues is the place to be August 9-12. Featuring a diverse array of blues acts on indoor and outdoor stages, FestiBlues has been a stellar success for the last decade in Montreal. Though the programming schedule is not yet available, last year 74,000 enthusiasts flocked to the Ahuntsic (a borough of Montreal North) stages to take in the best of Quebecois blues. For information: <http://festiblues.com>

All about the kids

Though the bulk of Montreal festivals have activities geared towards kids there's only one major event devoted to the young ones. La Fête des enfants de Montréal on the weekend of August 18-19 is the most family friendly event of the summer. This festival is a giant picnic with loads of activities; families can bring their own coolers and leave them in a safe storage area until lunchtime or purchase meals featuring international gourmet. Participants in this completely free event are invited to the Botanical Gardens, the Biodôme or the Insectarium. Also available on site are checking areas for strollers, a nursing tent, changing tables and bottle warmers and microwave ovens. For information: http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=168,561754&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Hollywood Nord

If you just can't get enough of the cinema, the Montreal World Film Festival, August 23 to September 3, is an end-of-summer tradition that in the past has launched many famous films amidst many big celebs. Although at the moment the festival is still in the stages of accepting submissions, the giant outdoor screen is guaranteed to be a hit for movie lovers who love their film under the stars. Every night at 8:30 pm, big blockbusters and classic films are screened on outside on the corner of Esplanade and Ste-Catherine Street to the completely free delight of thousands. For more information: www ffm-montreal.org/en_index.html

Alternative universe

Last year Gillett Entertainment Group collaborated with local promoters Greenland, Higher Ground and MEG to create a spectacular two-day, five-stage phenomena that brought groups like The Flaming Lips, Ben Harper and so many others together under one moniker, OSHEAGA. With last year's 25,000+ festival-goer attendance, the one word that came to mind was more! This year the ambitious festival is back with even bigger names and more of them. Though a large portion of the line-up is yet to be announced, already scheduled are the Smashing Pumpkins, Stars, Amy Winehouse, Placebo, Paolo Nutini, Peter, Bjorn & John, Sam Roberts Band and Xavier Caféine, to name a few. Bringing together local sensations with big name acts, this year's OSHEAGA festival is the hot rock ticket of the summer. Info: www.osheaga.com/

Marathon madness

After a summer of festival induced indulgence, end the summer on a healthy note with the Festival de la Santé Oasis and the Montreal International Marathon on September 9. Featuring various marathons, half marathons, race/walks, wheelchair races, a health cycling event and a corporate marathon challenge, the marathon/health fest was created in 1991 to encourage people to improve their physical fitness. Marathon enthusiasts line up annually on the Jacques Cartier Bridge and run through many of Montreal's most scenic neighbourhoods. To register or to find out more: www.marathondemontreal.com/

Expo 67 retrospective

Expo 67 was Montreal's ultimate celebration and for those who had the chance to be one of the 50 million visitors, the memory still lingers. When Montreal hosted the world's fair back in the summer of love, it became an international debutante party for the city, putting us on the



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map. In all, 84 pavilions represented 62 countries, giving many their first glimpse behind the (then) Iron Curtain, their first tastes of exotic foods from places like Thailand or exotic drinks from the Caribbean. Many remember the summer as the best of times, a cultural revolution and the birth of local hippie-dom. Now the City of Montreal wants to revive the conviviality of Expo 67 with a six-month retrospective.

The original world's fair ran six months as will its retrospective, with special events planned from May 1 through November 1. Kicking off the festivities is "Rendezvous at Man and His World," an exhibition of 30 large-scale photos tracing the creation of the islands for Expo 67 and showing their impact on the environment, hosted at the Biosphere. For those of you who were not there originally or born later, the Biosphere is the geodesic dome that Buckminster Fuller designed as United States pavilion for Expo 67.

Rollercoaster heaven

Though its quite unknown to its current regulars, La Ronde was actually created for Expo 67 and to celebrate its birth, the now Six Flags owned establishment will be, in participation with the City of Montreal, devoting its season opening to Expo. Special activities and entertainment will be featured throughout the weekend, as will preferential rates May 19-21. Celebrate the birth of this historic amusement park and relive your Expo memories or create new ones! For more info: www.laronde.com

The art of Expo

June 23 through September 3, the City of Montreal and the Quebec government will sponsor an exhibition at the Centre d'histoire de Montréal. This outdoor exposition, described as an "open-air art gallery," will feature the public art works that decorate Parc Jean-Drapeau, the majority of which were created for Expo 67. This exhibit will also feature the ongoing restoration of the Totem, carved by aboriginal artists from British Columbia. The goal is to recreate the atmosphere of "Man and His World." For more information: www.parcjeandrapeau.com

While you're at it, The Centre d'art public de Montréal will also be sponsoring a sculpture exhibition featuring works recalling the various themes and national pavilions at Expo 67. This exhibit will also run from June 29 through September 3 and will take place on Ile Sainte-Hélène. Go to www.parcjeandrapeau.com for more information.

From July 4 through August 28, you can rekindle the spirit of Expo 67 with a ride on the Balade, the miniature train that was created for Expo

so that visitors could tour around the site while getting a bird's eye perspective on the festivities. The train tour will feature historic information and be animated by a guide. For more information: www.parcjeandrapeau.com

There will be "Week-ends du Monde au parc Jean-Drapeau" celebrating Expo in July and August, which will celebrate diverse cultures from around the world at a series of events packed with entertainment, shows, dancing and gastronomy, among other things. These festivals run from July 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and August 23-25. Check the Parc Jean Drapeau website for updates: www.parcjeandrapeau.com

Orchestral manoeuvres

The Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal will be playing its own tribute to Expo's 40th anniversary with a concert of special programming. Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin will lead the show July 18 at Centre Pierre-Charbonneau with a 7:30 pm start. The show is presented as part of the Pop Concert series planned for the Expo retrospective. Call 514 899-0644 for more information or visit www.orgueset-couleurs.com

The Montreal Symphony Orchestra will play July 28 on the Parterre of Île Sainte-Hélène, paying tribute to two events, Expo 67 and 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Sulpician Order. This event is part of an ongoing series of outdoor symphonies that the MSO perform for free in parks throughout the city of Montreal. For more information on this event or the MSO's free outdoor concert series, go to www.osm.ca

Musical mega events

With all of the festivities already planned for Montreal during the summer months, it's hard to believe there are other major musical events planned. Yet, a whole slew of major acts, cutting-edge shows and large-scale outdoor musical extravaganzas are planned. The Gillett Entertainment Group will supply information on ticket prices and show details on its website at: www.geg.ca

Bell Centre concert and event listings

Fall out Boy hits the stage May 25 with +44, The Academy Is..., Paul Wall and Cobra Starship. Come and get your emo on with Pete Wentz and the boys and don't forget your "guy-liner" if you want to fit in.

World Wrestling Entertainment presents Raw Live! on May 27. Though this is just an exhibition match before the live show May 28, this is the best show in wrestling entertainment.

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Topping the charts with her new single, Gwen Stefani will be bringing her successful "The Sweet Escape Tour" to Montreal May 29. Stefani brings along her platinum-selling singer Akon and UK hoodie-clad-rebel-rapper Lady Sovereign.

Mixed Martial Arts fans get a treat June 1 when TKO comes back to the Bell Centre for TKO 29. The main event for the evening will be a Jonathan Goulet squaring off against Steve "Lion Heart" Vigneault for the Welterweight Championship. The event will also feature "Predator" Patrick Cote and the professional debut of hard-nosed hitter Steve Bosse!

Taking it old school, Interbox also offers something special for boxing fans June 15, when Lucian Bute takes on Sakio "The Scorpion" Bika. There is no saying that anyone will last the whole 12 rounds but it's always worth it to see them try.

Touring from the Yukon to Prince Edward Island, the White Stripes have vowed to play every province and territory this summer. Jack and Meg will be making a much-celebrated stop in Montreal July 6 to showcase their new album *Icky Thump*. Supporting acts have yet to be announced.

Do you remember the days when dudes looked like ladies? Def Leppard had to be one of the biggest acts of the 80s and incarnate the Hair Metal movement. Now on a 50-stop tour, Def Leppard will grace Montreal's biggest indoor stage July 17.

The Police were one of the most accessible bands of the late 70s and early 80s. Money heals all emotional wounds, apparently, as the treachy trio is back to rekindle the spirit for not one but two dates in July. If you want to hear Sting belt out Roxanne, Message in a Bottle or Every Breath You Take, make a move on tickets for the shows July 25 and 26.

Techno-funk-punk masters Daft Punk are back in the city August 7 to tear up the stage with their own unique brand of music. Supporting them will be The Rapture, Sebastian and Kavinsky.

If you wanna see him bring "Sexyback" for a second time or if you missed him last winter, Justin Timberlake will be making his second tour stop in Montreal so that yet more locals can toss panties at him. JT will be in Montreal August 18 and hopefully this time he will sing "My dick in a box!"

After crooning the rafters off the Casino de Montréal last summer, Frank Sinatra Jr. will be making a special stop at the Bell Centre August 25. Though the singer and conductor will always live in his father's shadow, he slowly making his own reputation, selling out smaller venues and now

moving on to larger stages. If you missed him last year, come and check out this chip off the old blue-eyed block.

Ending off the Bell Centre's summer concert season with a bang, Canadian icons, RUSH are back with their *Snakes & Arrows* World Tour. *Snakes & Arrows* is RUSH's first all-original material album in over five years and though the group has been around longer than half of their fans have lived, Geddy Lee and the boys still have it going on! September 15 at the Bell Centre.

Attractions at the Cabaret du Casino de Montréal :

For those that are really into stepping out in style the Casino de Montreal is the place to take in high calibre entertainment in a glamorous setting.

Frédéric De Grandpré will showcase his new eponymous album of love songs at the Casino May 16-June 3.

Flower Power, a Las Vegas style musical dance show, hits the Casino May 31 to July 29. The show is described as a re-visitation of the late 60s and early 70s hippie nirvana of period fashions, colours and songs. Expect to hear music of the bands that defined the era: The Doors, The Mamas and the Papas, Janis Joplin, David Bowie, Robert Charlebois, Bob Dylan, Diane Dufresne, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Harmonium, The Who, and many more.

Pierre Lalonde's *De Jeunesse à Aujourd'hui* will play the Casino June 12 to July 6. After a very successful tour of the province, Lalonde will serenade a Montreal audience with highlights of his 40-year showbiz career.

Gilles Girard and his musicians are bringing back the days of the "Men in White," July 10 to August 3. Back in their 60s heyday, Girard's vocal group was one of Quebec's most popular acts and now his fans will get to relive the experience in spectacular style.

A new and original production jam packed with local celebrities under the moniker "Summertime" hits Casino August 2 to September 30. Come and hear Star Académie's Véronique Claveau, Don Juan's Cindy Daniel, La Fureur's Rick Hughes and many more perform summer-themed hits like Summer of '69, Walking on Sunshine, Whenever Wherever, Surfing USA, Hawaïenne and Bamboléo.

If you're craving French (de France!) culture and daytime entertainment, *Sous les ponts de Paris* could be just the billet! This matinee program runs August 7 to September 9 and it pays homage to the great performers of French chanson, Charles Trenet to Michel Fugain.



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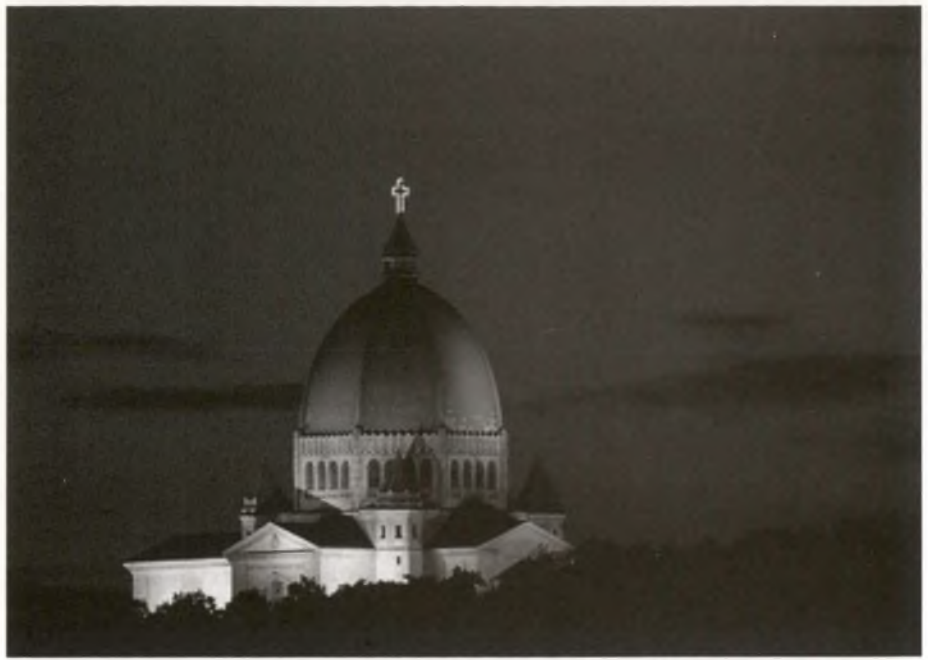
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More information on all of these shows can be found at www.casino-de-montreal.com

Sports

Alouette, gentil alouette

The Montreal Alouettes are gearing up for another action-packed run at the Grey Cup after narrowly losing out in last year's final. Granted, the battered old bowl has not made its way back to Montreal in going on six years now but that is only because it just keeps being stolen from us (well maybe not)! The departure of the Expos left Montreal sports fans with a huge void to fill, but fortunately the Als stepped up to the plate so to speak, winning the hearts of Quebecers. If you've never had the chance to sit in the raucous atmosphere of Percival Molson Memorial Stadium, do check it out. There is nothing like the smell of the hot dogs, the taste of a cold one and taunting the visiting team live! The Als season kicks off on June 9. Go to <http://en.montrealalouettes.com/> for the full schedule and ticket information.

Make an Impact

With the international popularity of the FIFA World Cup, and the likes of David Beckham crossing the pond to play for an, ahem, American team, it's no big surprise that local soccer is growing in popularity. Montreal's professional soccer team, the Impact, are gearing up for another successful season. Suzuki has actually just finished inking a three-year, corporate sponsorship deal with "footballers," making the Japanese manufacturer a major partner of the club. The first home corner kick comes May 20 against Seattle at the Claude-Robillard Sports Complex. For more information go to: www.montrealimpact.com

Sand and bikinis

The Swatch-FIVB Beach Volley World Tour is also back this year for another weekend of sexy beach volleyball. For four days, July 4-8, Uniprix stadium transforms itself into a mega beach party by importing tonnes of sand and the best men and women beach volleyball players from around the world. This is their only stop in North America and the Montreal Open provides its fans with Olympic level beach volleyball along with an incredible party ambience that features wild and crazy fans, sand and music all day and night! Be one of the expected 25,000 to take in the festivities. For more information go to: www.worldbeachvolleyball.com/

Ongoing Montreal Attractions

La langue de Molière

Theatre in the Park is a Montreal tradition and the summer just wouldn't be the same without it! Repercussion Theatre has been delighting Montreal audiences and neighbouring communities with Shakespearean theatre for many years now but deciding to switch it up, they will instead be presenting their very first production of Molière's *Les fourberies de Scapin*. Scapin will be presented in both French and English with the same actors in this very ambitious theatre first! An evening of theatre in the park is also a great and inexpensive way to spend time with the whole family, just remember to bring a blanket to sit on or some folding chairs. Though the schedule for this summer's theatrics is not yet available, updates will shortly be available on their website at: www.theatreintheparks.ca/

DJs in the park

Piknic Électronik is Montreal's premiere outdoor dance party and the hottest place to be every Sunday from May 20 through early September. For those of you who have never been to the weather-permitting daytime dance party, it goes down by the monument facing the water in Parc Jean Drapeau from noon until sunset. Folks, both young and old flock to this event to get down to the techno beats, soak up the sun and enjoy their cooler packed goods. Some of Montreal's hottest DJs showcase their mixing techniques at this event while the most diverse crowd imaginable dances the day away. There are always kiddie pools set up for the youngins as well as misty sprinklers for anyone to cool off under and if you forgot to pack a lunch, hot dogs are always available on site. Admission ranges from \$5 to \$10, depending on which acts are spinning making this an ideal event for those who are on a budget or not. In the short five years that this event has been around, it's become an authentic Montreal institution! For more information go to: www.piknicelectronik.com

Organic music

If grand scale church organ music is what soothes your soul, Saint-Joseph's Oratory's "Wednesdays of the Organ Festival" is back to serenade you with sweet music. In collaboration with the McGill Summer Organ Academy, from July 11 through August 8 the Oratory will feature various different music recitals, from various different composers. The carillon recitals will also be happening again this summer and for those of you who don't know, carillon music is the music derived from synchro-



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nised church bells. The set at the Saint-Joseph's consists of 56 bells cast in bronze mixed with alloys of copper and pewter that were originally intended for the Eiffel Tower in Paris but was installed at the Oratory in 1954 as a gift from generous donors.

For more information on ongoing events at Saint-Joseph's Oratory, go to: www.saint-joseph.org

River rapid

If you are planning to spend some time in the city and you are looking for to do that is wet, wild, adventurous and fun for everyone, take a jet boat tour of the Lachine rapids. Also known as the saute moutons, jet boating is similar to regular rafting only the motor does all of the work for you and it's less dangerous as people generally tend not to fall out of the boats. Les sauté moutons is a great way to both take in Montreal's spectacular skyline while enjoying a wee bit of adrenaline. Of course, if adrenaline is what you are after, Jet Boating Montreal also offers speedboating rides. Billed as the "Old Port's fastest attraction," this rodeo style jet boating thrill ride promises to have enough high-speed twists and turns to resemble a chase scene in a James Bond movie! If you want to ride the rapids this summer, go to www.jetboatingmontreal.com/

Amphibians on the St-Lawrence

If on the other hand you'd rather take a lingering tour of the old port and then see the bottom of the St-Lawrence River, without dying, the Amphi-Bus may just be your speed. Since 1985 the Amphi-Bus, an amphibious bus like vehicle that is both sea and street legal, has been delighting its passengers with its tours of the old port and subsequent tours of the water. Both an educational and exhilarating experience, the Amphi-Bus allows its passengers to see all sorts of Montreal's hidden charms from a unique perspective while in the comfort of an air-conditioned cabin. During L'International des Feux Loto-Québec, the Amphi-Bus also offers a special two hour tour during the evenings. For more information or to book yourself a tour go to: www.montreal-amphibus-tour.com/

Get stuffed

If you happen to be in the Old Port of Montreal with the family on a rainy day and you are looking for something unique and memorable to do with the kids, why not take them to The Plush Factory (l'Univers Toutou) to make their own stuffed animal friends. Even if you don't have kids but just really happen to like stuffed animals, Plush Factory was developed as an interactive thematic retail store that offers a magical experience and the

creation of a "new friend." Customers can select one of the 20 "plushes" or stuffed animal shells and then proceed to stuff the animal via an easy to use stuffing machine that is manned by the store staff. There are various imaginative steps involved in the process of creating this "magical" new friend from dressing and accessorising the new toy to making wishes with it. Open year round. For more information: www.plushfactory.com/

Family day trips from Montreal

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh my!

What childhood is complete without a trip to the Zoo? If you are staying in the Montreal area and are looking to take a day trip, the Granby zoo is under an hour away from the city and offers all sorts of delights for the whole family to enjoy. The park opens on June 2 this year so come and check out the Hippo River, Gorilla's Valley, the Lemur's Island and the many other exciting, interactive animal packed exhibitions as you stroll through the park. Once you've worked up a sweat from touring the park, cool off in the Amazoo Yoplait Water Park. Featuring a wave pool, a water games basin and a South American, Amazon River inspired, Lazy River inner-tube waterslide ride, kids and parents alike can cool off and have fun. Located in the town of Granby in the Eastern Townships Region of Quebec, the Granby Zoo has been a family favourite for generations! For more information go to: www.zoodegranby.com/

More than a zoo

If you've ever dreamed of going on a real African Safari but don't happen to have on hand the several thousand dollars it would happen to cost to go on such a trip, why not check out the next best thing at Parc Safari? Also less than an hour away from Montreal in Hemmingford, Parc Safari offers patrons the opportunity to take a somewhat authentic African-themed safari from the comfort of their own vehicle. The fun doesn't stop with the safari aspect; there is also an animal observatory, a deer trail, an insectarium, interactive animations with animals, beaches and an amusement park. Parc Safari's tag line is "way more than a zoo," and it really, really is!

For more information: www.parcsafari.com

For the birds

If you'd rather turn your attention to one specific species and that species just so happens to be birds, why not check out the Exotic Zoo Birds and Sanctuary Icare! This specialty zoo offers permanent or temporary sanctuary to exotic birds and exotic birds can be purchased here.



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The Quebec Press Council is looking for two candidates from different cultural and regional backgrounds to sit on its board of directors to represent the public. The Council will favour candidates who demonstrate a good general knowledge of the media and a capacity to provide critical and impartial opinions on matters of journalistic ethics and the obligations of journalists and the media.

The Council is a dispute-resolution panel made up of representatives from media companies, journalists and the public that helps mediate disputes between the media and the public; it is dedicated to the protection of the freedom of the press and to the public's right to quality reporting.

The Council examines complaints related to these questions and renders public decisions. Please submit your candidacy, with your resumé, by Friday May 15th at the latest:

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Inmet Mining Corporation - Troilus Division benefits from this special edition to mention that it is proud to support the initiatives such as this one in order to support the socio-economic development of the Crees

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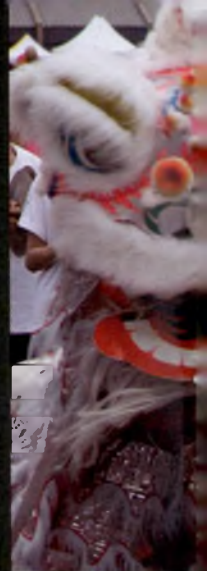




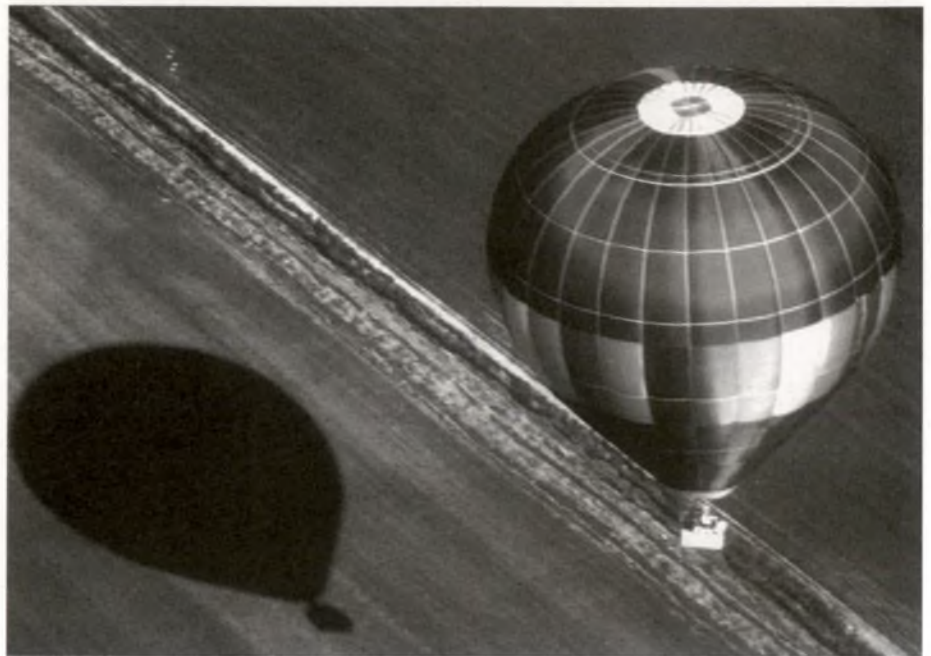
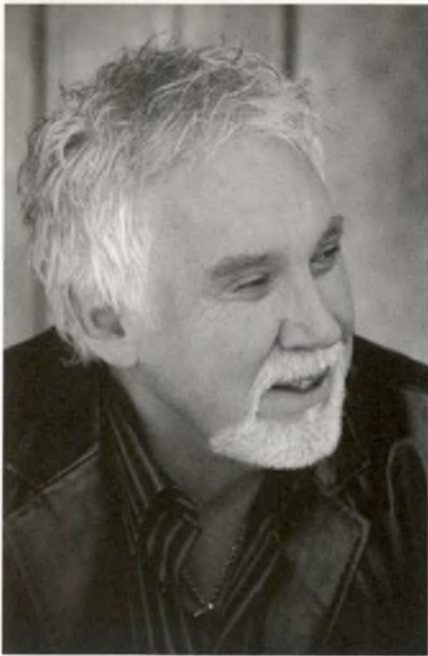
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Over 150 varieties of exotic birds in their full plumage are on display in various habitats along a one-kilometer landscaped path offering a both eye opening and educational experience for bird enthusiasts or novices. This exotic zoo is also under one hour away from Montreal and is a completely unique experience. For more information go to: www.zoocare.com

Other regional (roadside) attractions

Forest fever

If you've ever fantasized about swinging from the trees like Tarzan or speeding down a zip line like all of those contestants on Survivor or the Amazing Race, a visit to the Mont-Tremblant region's Acrobranche, may just be the adventure you are craving. According to their website, visitors at Acrobranche can "fly between the leaves using logs, barrels, bridges, trapezes or flying snowboards, Tarzan ropes and even a rocky wall," all at 25 to 75 feet from the ground. Visitors will first be given a detailed crash course on how to use slings, carabiners and pulleys before they embark on their 2 hour and 30 minute Acrobranche adventure under the supervision of a qualified operator. This is an idea activity for the adrenaline fiend in your family! For more information or to book an adventure, go to www.acrobranche.com

Full of hot air

Of course if you would rather something more laid back and visually stunning, the L'International de montgolfières de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu is a spectacular world class event. From August 11-19 the skies over Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu become awash with color and majestic forms in the biggest gathering of balloons in Canada. This event brings 350,000 visitors to the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu festival annually and features 110 hot air balloons, including many special shapes, major shows, and a huge site that hosts an incredible variety of animated activities. This is a perfect event for the whole family, including the babies and grandparents as there is something at this festival for just about everyone. For more information on this magical event go to www.montgolfieres.com

Bye Bye Mon Cowboy

There is no reason as to why Mommas shouldn't let their babies grow up to be cowboys as that is exactly what the Festival Western de St-Tite! Located just north of Trois-Rivières (and once a meeting place for northern lumberjacks), this historic festival began back in 1967 as a marketing strategy for the town's main industry, leatherwork, particularly for western boots. From September 8-17, country and western enthusiasts are

welcome to come and check out the rodeo, participate in the country dancing, pick up some new cowboy duds and check out some fabulous country dancing! For the main event September 13, Mr. Country Music himself, the one and only Kenny Rogers, will be playing a live show! For more information on this authentic country western festival, go to: www.festivalwestern.com

Things to do in Northern Quebec

Northern Quebec also has various different tourist attractions and events from fishing tournaments to arts festivals to an animal refuge...there is plenty to do if you know where to look!

A golden fishing derby

From June 21-30, the 8th annual Festival du Doré is back and this year it is featuring more than \$110,000 in prizes! Located on Lake Opiniska, about 10 km away from Chapais, this festival is by far and large the most important fishing tournament in the province. There will be various different categories for groups and individuals to enter into, nighttime entertainment, kids' activities during the day, a community dinner and fireworks at night. To fund the event, the festival will also be selling tickets to raffle off a brand new Ford Focus 2007! This family friendly event is the perfect opportunity for those in the James Bay community to gather, do some fishing and make new friends! For more information: www.walleyefishingtournament.com/

Jack some lumber

"If you're a lumberjack and you're ok"... to quote Monty Python, why not enter the Festival forestier de Senneterre. This event attracts professional woodsmen from all over Canada, the U.S., Europe, Australia and New Zealand and also has amateur categories for the lumberjacking novice. From axe throwing to chainsaw events to lady lumberjacking categories this festival has it all! There will be plenty of activities for the kids, too, such as games, children's shows, face painting and a nighttime fireworks display. This festival runs June 28-July 1 and features some really big prizes for the winners with a grand prize of \$20,000! For more information go to: www.festivalforestier.ca

Theatrical Abitibi

If the arts are what you crave and local history is your flavour, check out Le Paradis du Nord at La Sarre in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. This blockbuster musical tells the story how the Abitibi-Témiscamingue



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region came to be through its more than 75 actors, dancers and gymnasts on a large stage, with spectacular sets and a multimedia projection. Running in French and put on by La Troupe À Coeur Ouvert, the show runs June 28 through August 4. Go to www.leparadisduord.com/ for information.

Funny Abitibi

Though their programming schedule is not due to be out until the end of May, the annual Festival de l'humour de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue will run July 3-8. This popular event attracts thousands to the area annually and similarly to Montreal's big comedy festival features gala events, new comic competitions, interactive improvisation, free shows and much more. For updates on who will be performing at this year's "Festival de l'humour," go to www.festivaldhumour.com

From July 16-July 21, the 8th annual Festival d'été de Val-d'Or is back on with its own brand of energetic musical rhythms. Previously known as the Festival d'été Métro, this event was designed to coincide with the Tour de l'Abitibi cycling marathon and Val-d'Or's sidewalk sale. Though the musical programming schedule is not out yet, check out their website for updates, <http://festivaldetevaldor.ca>

Trucking and bucking

If you love your truck just as much as you love your husband or wife... don't tell them! Instead take pride in your vehicle at the Notre-Dame-du-Nord Truck Rodeo August 2-5. This major tourist event is expanding to an international level and has brought 60,000 visitors to the region in previous years. The rodeo features over 600 trucks, various competitions, truck pulls and heavyweight races. Show and shine your vehicle or take in the parade! There is going to be live entertainment every night, a flea market, fireworks, children's activities and all sorts of amazing prizes for the winners. For more information go to: www.elrodeo.com

Fire and light

To mesmerize your ears and eyes, check out the Osisko en lumière, Festival pyromusical en Abitibi-Témiscamingue August 3-5. Rouyn-Noranda will be hosting three evenings of synchronized fireworks and music orchestrated by three professional fireworks firms. Over 40 artists will be performing on the large outdoor stage at this event in a number shows and there will also be inflatable games and clowns to keep the kids entertained. For more information: www.corpodesfetes.ca/

Ongoing attractions in Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Mining for fun

If you are looking for an educational theme park to take the kids to as part of their summer vacation, take them to Cité de l'Or / Village minier de Bourlamaque, an authentic mining theme park in Val-d'Or. When a vein of gold was discovered in the region in 1923, it brought about exploration of the future mine site and Val d'Or earned its name as the valley of Gold. The Lamaque Gold Mines were closed down in 1985 and turned into an exploration centre named La Cité de l'Or. At this theme park, visitors can discover a real 300-foot mine while dressed as a miner and also look at how gold is processed in various other buildings. A visit to the Cité de l'Or is a great way for the family to spend the day together, all the while learning something new. For more information go to: www.citedelor.com

Hard Rock

If you've ever had an interest in geology or you are looking to inspire little minds while having some fun with science, a day at the Centre thématique fossilifère in Notre-Dame-du-Nord could be just the thing for you and the whole family. Also known as the Lake Timiskaming Fossil Centre, at this Museum / interpretation centre / historic site, visitors can discover the formations and geology of the Témiscamingue region through fossils. Make a day of learning about geology, paleontology and the mysteries of life on earth part of your summer vacation plans. For information: www.fossiles.qc.ca/

Wildlife refuge

If you or anyone in your family is a big fan of wildlife, a visit to the Refuge Pageau zoo and wildlife observation centre could be a fun and informative way to spend the day. Michel and Louise Pageau created this home for abandoned, lost or wounded moose, bears, wolves, deer, raccoons, birds of prey and other small orphans when Michel discovered a moose in the woods in distress. A former hunter and trapper himself, Pageau's life was transformed as he bonded with the moose while nursing it back to health. Since that time the Pageaus have transformed their lives, taking in just about any animal that needs their help and the public is welcome to come and see these animals in recovery this warm and comforting setting. While there, visitors can also check out the Pageau's mini farm. The Refuge Pageau is located in Amos and to find out more about this attraction go to www.refugepageau.ca



First Nations Garden a must see!

by Steve Bonspiel

A stroll into the First Nations Garden gives you the sensation of entering an ancient pharmacy. With the proper knowledge, anyone would be able to use their surroundings to feed, clothe and, most importantly, heal themselves in a traditional way.

Aboriginal medicine has to this day not been fully documented and more than a few surprises await visitors thanks to the collaborative efforts with Quebec's Aboriginals and the use of their local knowledge.

"If the First Nations Garden does not work with the Aboriginal community, it would not be very interesting," Sylvie Paré, Cultural Agent for the First Nations Garden, told the Nation.

Alain Cuerrier, a botanist at the garden, researched plants and various berries in Eeyou Istchee to create an authentic Cree area. Traditional Cree knowledge was studied and incorporated and it shows.

Labrador tea and blueberries are prevalent along with many other plants and trees found in Cree territory. The ironic twist to planting them down south is the amazing growth the trees are able to achieve in the warmer climate. They also bloom earlier.

Set up within the massive Botanical Gardens expanse that includes a Biodome, a Japanese and Chinese Garden and an insectarium, the visit is well worth the price.

Over a million visitors come to the Botanical Gardens each year and the First Nations Garden is a fitting tribute to Quebec's founding peoples.

Authentic moccasins, arts work and other handicrafts are made from artists within the communities and are available at the gift shop.

"We talk about the history of the First Nations, but we also talk about today as well," said Paré.

The garden helps to foster understanding and break down barriers.

"The garden constitutes a fundamental place or space where ideas and misconceptions about Natives can be deconstructed," Paré co-wrote with Cuerrier in an article that appeared in *Public Garden*. "A space where notions of tradition, value, mutual respect and trust can develop and give rise to a dialog between cultures."

A whopping 10,000 plants were transplanted into the First Nations garden at its inception.

Their method of collecting the plants was one of respect. Instead of uprooting living or endangered plants (American Ginseng, for example), the team of horticulturists simply visited sites that were slated for demolition and collected them, sometimes within earshot of a roaring bulldozer.

All 11 nations are represented at the Botanical Gardens. The areas are broken down into four main components; the hardwood forest, the softwood forest, the Nordic zone and the interpretation pavilion.

The Mohawks have the three sisters: corn, beans and squash are on display for everyone to see and learn about the most vital foods that helped to sustain them, especially when the hunt periodically went dry.

The Algonquins constructed a wigwam, the Innu a teepee and the Inuit an Inukshuk. All in all, it is a beautiful site to see and a great place for non-natives and natives alike to learn more about Quebec's 11 nations.

The plants, ranging in size shape and colour and use, can be edible, medicinal or used for fuel.

There are also many cultural events that take place over the course of the summer.

This year's guest list includes Bernard and Mariette Connely, Innu artists who will be demonstrating the painstaking task of snowshoe making. They will also be crafting moccasins made from moose hide. The exhibition will take place in the First Nations Garden July 14-15.

There is a special treat later on in the summer for environmentally conscious visitors. On September 2-4, the garden will welcome Judy Dow, an Abenaki artist who will demonstrate contemporary basket making using natural and recycled materials.

Having trouble finding out more information about a certain tree? Well on August 25 and 26 Bernard Contré, an expert in indigenous trees, will lend his expertise for special guided tours to answer any questions that may be out of the realm of the other guides.

For more information visit their website: www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/menu.htm



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Tel: (819) 824-5505 Fax: (819) 824-5420

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with the Nation?

Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

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"For him, being two-spirited is not only about sexual orientation, but it's a way of life, a perspective that helps him in his creation,"

over two days, June 12 and 13.

This year's Rez show will honour the godmother of Aboriginal film, Alanis Obomsawin. A sextet of musicians will be performing and re-working songs starting her film about the 1990 Oka crisis, *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance* to her latest, *Waban-Aki: People from where the sun rises*.

"It is a show that will honour Alanis' films and emphasis very good music that has been inspired by Aboriginal realities," Dudemaine told the Nation at his Montreal office. "Most of the score has been, in effect hidden or lost in the film. Now with a new orchestration we will be able to enjoy the music directly.

Composers, Francis Grandmont and Claude Vendette will lead the charge with other well-known Quebecois musicians.

"Our festival isn't only about Aboriginal artists, it's about Aboriginal culture and the way it reaches other people and inspires them to bring something to Aboriginal culture," said Dudemaine. "It's a phenomenon that we want to showcase.

Inuit rocker chick Lucie Idlout will round out the night. Her raspy voice and her sexy style are sure to be a hit with the boys in the audience – and the ladies as well.

For history buffs, the June 21st Aboriginal Day celebrations on Mont Royal should not be missed. The festival is bringing together officials from the three levels of government as well as the Assembly of First Nations to celebrate



Meet The Prick

the Great Peace of Montreal signed in 1701.

Kondiaronk Belvedere, a Huron Chief at the time, was instrumental in bringing the peace to light. The ceremony will be held in an area of the park named after him for his efforts.

For those of you who like poetry, you're in for a big treat! There will be a poetry battle between French poets José Acquelin, originally from France, and her Innu counterpart, Joséphine Bacon on June 15 at Café l'Utopik.

Through the inspiration from the other, they will trade barbs, or poems in this case, in a creative exchange that will foster new understandings between the poets and their audience.

One Man show: Jean Pierre Pelchat: Polemic watercolors loosely tells the story, through various works of art, of the Cree state of mind before and after the two large agreements signed with Quebec. Pelchat, who comes from Chisasibi, is one of the highlights of the festival.

"It's really modern," said Dudemaine. "He represents a lot of 1950s posters and comic books. He warns people that we have to take care of what we are and what we may become.

"It's very Cree, being strong with conviction, but always telling it tranquilly, not shouting it out, but softly and intelligently," he continued. "We are really happy to have him in our program this year."

Pelchat's work will be showcased at the Canadian Guild of Crafts June 11- July 11.

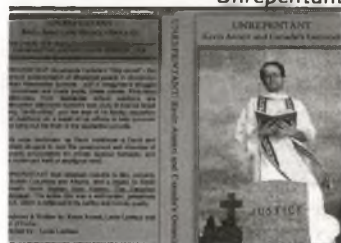
"I wanted to express my point of view and my ideas about the Crees and what is happening to them and their beloved lands," said Pelchat. "We Cree have been so flooded with new technology that we run the risk of drowning in it."

For more information on the festival visit www.nativel-yx.qc.ca/.

Fighting Cholitas



Unrepentant



"Our festival isn't only about Aboriginal artists, it's about Aboriginal culture and the way it reaches other people and inspires them to bring something to Aboriginal culture," said Dudemaine. "It's a phenomenon that we want to showcase."

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Matagami is the «Gateway to James Bay Territory» and much more still. Take your time and discover what our region has to offer. Matagami offers an outstanding quality of life in a setting where nature is all-around. Besides numerous facilities, our young town also has several activities in store for you.

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Photo: Photos André Enr.

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THE

POW WOW

LISTINGS



May

May 12:

Rama Mnjikaning First Nation Mother's Day pow wow.

Location: Rama Mnjikaning First Nation, Ontario. MASK Arena (1km north of Casino Rama)

Info: 705-325-3611 Robin Harrington ext. 1298, Ron Douglas: ext. 1231, Vicki Snache: ext. 1288, John Snake: ext. 1294
johnsn@mnjikaning.ca

May 19-20:

Hiawatha, Rice Lake First Nations traditional pow wow.

Location: Hiawatha, Ontario. Beside Peterborough. Hwy 2.

Bkejwanong Community Cultural Celebration

Walpole Island, Ontario

Info: Stacey Nahdee (519) 332-6164
or stacey.nahdee@lambton.on.ca

May 25-27:

30th Annual Odawa Contest Pow Wow.

Location: Nepean, Ontario Tent & Trailer Park.

Info: 613-722-3811 www.odawa.on.ca
fkakegamick@odawa.on.ca

June

June 1-3:

Kitigan Zibi Anaishinabe Kijigon Traditional Pow Wow

Maniwaki, Quebec, school grounds

Info: 619-449-5449

June 2-3:

Henry Shingoose Traditional pow wow.

Location: Selkirk, Manitoba. 1147 Breezy Pt Rd.

Info: Mike Calder mikec@bhf.ca Rob Sinclair robs@bhf.ca 204-482-9711 www.bhf.ca

June 9-10:

Barrie contest pow wow.

Location: Barrie, Ontario. Barrie Fair Grounds.

Info: 705-721-7689 d.martin@bnfc.ca

June 15-17:

Rainy River First Nations Traditional pow wow.

Location: Manitou Rapids, Ontario.

Info: Elvis DeBungee 807-482-2479 edebungee@hotmail.com

June 16-17:

5th Annual Temiskaming First Nation Gathering of the Clans Traditional Pow Wow.

Temiskaming, Quebec, Pow Wow grounds.

Info: Darlene Chevrier, 819-723-2019

June 20:

National Aboriginal Day traditional pow wow.

Location: Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 902-379-2298, 902-379-2634, 902-379-2544

June 21-22:

Kitpu Youth Centre's 2nd Annual Aboriginal Day traditional pow wow.

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Info: Ursula A. Johnson 902-420-1576 kitpuyouth@hotmail.com

June 23-24:

Henvey Inlet First Nation Traditional pow wow.

Location: South of Sudbury, Ontario. Off Hwy 69 to Pickerel River Road.

Info: Wanda Skead-McQuabbie 866-252-3330

ManitouEkwe@yahoo.ca

June 23-24:

Wikwemikong's Traditional pow wow.

Location: Wikwemikong, Ontario. Manitoulin Island.

Info: 705-859-2385 www.wikwemikongheritage.ca

cbell@wikwemikongheritage.org

July

July 7-8:

13th Annual Munsee-Deleware Nation traditional pow wow.

Location: Munsee, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 519-289-5396 ext. 229 Inicolas@munsee.on.ca

July 7-8:

18th Annual Sheguiandah First Nation traditional pow wow.

Location: Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 705-368-2791 sfnband@ontera.ca

July 13-15:

Naotkamegwaning First Nation Competition pow wow.

Location: Whitefish Bay, Ontario.

Info: Linda Namaypope 866-610-4873 naotkam@voyageur.ca

July 14-15:

Kahnawake Pow Wow

info: info@kahnawakepowwow.com

tel: (450) 632-8667 fax: (450) 632-2813

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Opwaggwanisining Traditional Pow Wow

Nipigon, Ontario. Across from Lake Helen.

Info: 807-887-2510

www.redrockband.ca

rrib@shaw.ca

July 14-16:

Annual Gaspard Gabler Memorial Traditional pow wow.

Location: Camperville, Manitoba. Smokey Island Bay Pow Wow Grounds - Pine Creek First Nation.

Info: Madgeline Chartrand 204-524-2651

Nancymckay45@msn.com

July 20-22:

Mississauga Traditional Pow Wow

Blind River, Ontario. Pow Wow grounds



Info: 705-356-1621

24th Annual Pic River traditional pow wow.

Location: Heron Bay, Ontario. Mouth of the Pic River.

Info: 807-229-1749 www.picriver.com

July 21-22:

11th Annual Mississaugas of Scugog Island traditional pow wow.

Location: Scugog Island, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 905-985-3337 or 905-985-1826 or 905-985-1476

July 21- 26, 2007

Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage

Grounds open for camping July 18th.

Info: (780) 924-3231 MJM2006@telus.net www.lsap.ca

July 28-29:

28th Annual Champion of Champions contest pow wow.

Location: Ohsweken, Ontario. Chiefswood Park.

Info: 866-393-3001 or 515-445-4061 or 519-758-5444

www.grpowwow.com info@grpowwow.com

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- Sample must be located on a map
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- Hints on the ground:
look for rusty surfaces (Add a nice photo of the outcrop; take the photo with the sun in your back).
- Hints after breaking:
sample metallic minerals
(Add a nice photo of the sample freshly broken).



DEADLINE AND SHIPPING

- CMEB assumes the analysis expenses of the participating samples.
- The contest ends on **October 31, 2007.**
- Shipping is at participant's expenses.

COORDINATES

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Fax: (819) 978-3834

e-mail: youceflarbi@creenet.com

August

August 3-5:

15th Annual Listuguj traditional pow wow.

Location: Listuguj, Quebec. Moffet's Landing.

Info: 418-788-3278 or 418-788-5707

August 3-5:

Long Plain First Nation contest pow wow.

Location: Long Plain, Manitoba. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 204-252-3066

August 3-5:

25th Annual Lake of the Eagles traditional pow wow.

Location: Eagle Lake, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 807-755-5526 pitch1@mail.drytel.net

August 4-5:

14th Annual Rekindling our Tradition Traditional pow wow.

Location: Fort Erie, Ontario. Center Property.

Info: 905-871-8931 ext 228

August 4-6:

47th Annual Wikwemikong contest pow wow.

Location: Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Thunderbird Park.

Info: 705-859-2385 www.wikwemikongheritage.ca cbell@wikwemikongheritage.org

August 10-12:

Genaabaaing contest pow wow.

Location: Culter, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 705-844-2418

August 11-12:

Chisasibi Pow Wow (Date to be confirmed)

Info: 819-855-2878

Saugeen First Nations Contest pow wow.

Location: Southhampton, Ontario. Saugeen First Nations

Info: 519-797-1224

August 18-19:

14th Annual Whitefish River traditional pow wow.

Location: Birch Island, Ontario. Sunshine Alley.

Info: 705-285-4321

Honouring Vets traditional pow wow.

Location: Wiarton, Ontario. Cape Croker Park.

Info: 519-534-1689 or 519-534-1957

August 25-27:

21st Annual Mississaugas traditional pow wow.

Location: Hagersville, Ontario. New Credit Indian Reserve.

Info: 519-445-4567 or 905-768-5686 www.newcreditpowwow.com carolynk@execulink.com

August 31-September 2:

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway traditional pow wow.

Location: Dryden, Ontario. Wabigoon Lake.

Info: 807-938-6684 or 807-938-0030

September

September 1-2:

18th Annual Nipissing Gathering traditional pow wow.

Location: Nipissing First Nation, Ontario. Pow wow grounds.

Info: 705-753-2050 or 705-472-7888 ext 25 pms@aofrc.org

September 1-2:

33rd Annual Delaware Nation contest pow wow.

Location: Moravian Reserve, Ontario. Highgate Rd.

Info: 519-692-3936 or 519-692-3969

September 6-9:

Six Nations Fall Fair contest pow wow.

Location: Ohsweken, Ontario. Fair Grounds.

Info: 519-578-5444 www.sntourism.com
tourism@sntourism.com

September 8-9:

7th Annual Akwesasne Intertribal contest pow wow.

Location: Cornwall Island, Ontario. A'nowara'ko'wa Arena.

Info: 613-575-2467 or 613-575-2348 lking@akwesasne.ca or akwesasnepowwow@yahoo.com



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The Chibougamau Summer Cultural Festival



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The 9th annual edition of this popular cultural event will be held in Chibougamau from August 2nd to August 5th 2007.

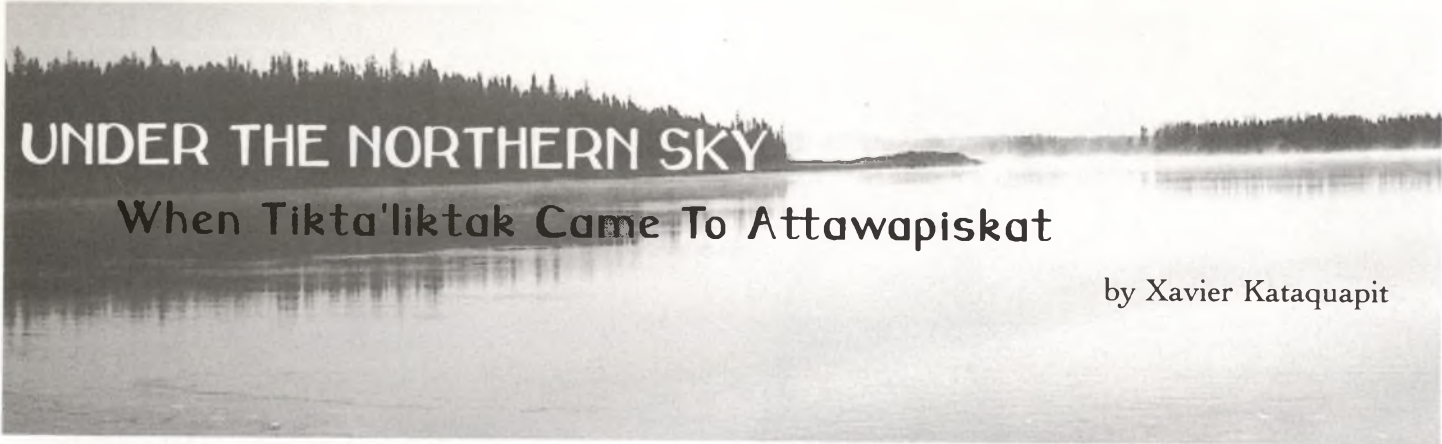
In 2006 our citizens and visitors were entertained by twenty-five different artists from Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waskaganish, Obedjiwan, Chapais, Chibougamau, etc.

Considering the great success of this cultural event the organizing committee has decided to continue with the same concept this year, which we believe to be popular and which will satisfy the different participants from the surrounding towns and communities.

This year, the invitation is being extended to participants of all ages from the Northern Quebec region 10 area. We are looking for a variety of performers such as musicians, dancers, humorists, singers etc.

Registration is free and anyone interested should communicate with Chantale Bouchard, assistant director of recreation services for the town of Chibougamau. Please contact the sports and recreation department at the following number (418) 748-7195.

WE WELCOME ALL THE POPULATION!



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

When Tikta'liktak Came To Attawapiskat

by Xavier Kataquapit

School was always a place of refuge in our remote community. I almost always looked forward to going to school. I remember one special day in particular that changed my perception of Attawapiskat. Our teacher started every morning with daily announcements. This day got off to an exciting start with an announcement from our teacher, Mr. Fancy. This was a big deal because we were heading off for a general assembly in the gymnasium. That meant no regular lessons and the opportunity to mix with our friends and family en masse in the gym.

As we walked in single file into the gymnasium, we were surprised to find that one whole wall of the open space was covered over in white canvas and painted fabric. The sheets hung high in the air and they were draped over numerous square blocks of all shapes and sizes. We saw smiling strangers wandering around this simple set adjusting the blocks and arranging things. Younger students had already been escorted in to take their place in front of this set. My class and I sat down on the hardwood floor to form the fifth row from the front. We fidgeted as we sat cross legged waiting for the rest of the school to arrive. The gym began to fill with the different classes and age groups. A murmur grew into a loud buzz as more and more kids joined us on the floor. It was good to see brothers, sisters and cousins here and there. We were told to hush and sit quietly.

In the quiet din, a hidden sound system reverberated with a hand drum that was played lightly at first and then grew louder and louder. The Inuit hand drum pounded in a pulsing beat and we were all captivated by the strange sound. As the drum faded out, a character dressed in seal skins from foot to shoulder ran out into the middle of the set carrying a spear. The creature rushed around the sheet-covered blocks as if looking for something while aiming the long pointed rod to the ground with both hands. He jumped up on the highest block and said he was hunting for seal. As soon as he said this, our imaginations took over and we all seemed to be transported to another world. The white covered blocks transformed into great hunks of ice and we were sitting on the shores of the

Arctic Ocean as we followed the life of a young Inuit hunter.

We forgot our world and our community for an hour or so as we lived through the story of a young hunter named Tikta'liktak. It is a saga of one who gets lost in the ice flows of the Arctic. We became excited and shouted out in glee as he ran around the ice looking for seal. We grew quiet with fright as he realized that he had ventured too far out and was now lost at sea on drifting ice. His anguish and fear made us feel like we had drifted off into the ocean with him. It is as if we had become partners in some strange journey with this young man. Even though we did not fully understand the words he spoke or the ideas he conveyed, we were sitting on the ice with him, lost and confused. As we listened and watched the story unfold, we felt his moments of joy at gathering food, hope at finding help and relief at eventually surviving his ordeal.

When the play finally ended we were happy for our hero but at the same time we were disappointed in the change of character from Tikta'liktak to the actor. As suddenly as he had come into our lives Tikta'liktak was gone. He bowed down to applause and when he arose he was just another man. The set then returned to a pile of blocks draped over in white sheets. We woke from a dream and realized it was all just some kind of magic. There we were back in our school, on the floor in the gym in Attawapiskat.

The magic I experienced was my first taste of live theatre. I was amazed that an actor, a few props and a story could have such a huge effect on us. I now understood the power of a good story and a theatre production or play. This play made me realize that people have the power to transport each other to other places and worlds through sheer will and imagination. It also made me understand that as people we all speak a common language when it comes to good theatre. This day was a milestone in my life. It made me realize that I was no longer so enclosed in my own small corner of this greater planet. Our community was not as remote as I had thought. Instead, with a little imagination and the help of a good story, I was free to explore all kinds of worlds.

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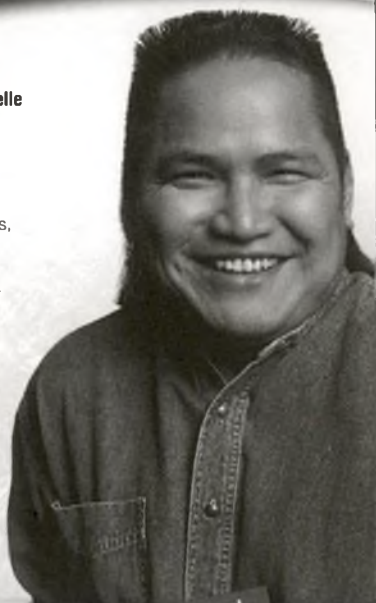
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The Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority is presently seeking a highly motivated individual to perform a range of administrative and technical duties as **Regional Recreation Coordinator** in order to facilitate the set-up of the Coordination Office for the Regional Sports and Recreation.

The Regional Recreation Coordinator will be under the general direction of the Director of Youth Development and will work closely with the Regional Recreation Committee.

Interested persons who meet the requirements stated in the enclosed job description may send their resume to the following address by **Friday, May 18, 2007 before 5:00 pm** to the attention of:



Selection Committee
Cree Regional Authority
Sports and Recreation Coordination Office
2, Lakeshore Road
Nemaska, Quebec J0Y 3B0

Telephone: (819) 673-2600 | Fax: (819) 673-2606

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS - 100

We would like to congratulate "our" nephew Nigel Diamond and his girlfriend Maggie Faries on the birth of their baby girl Mischa Meegwin Diamond-Faries...hope I spelled it right!! This precious bundle of joy came into this world on April, 21 2007 weighing in @ 10lbs7oz...she was born @ 5:05 pm. Well guys take good care of lil' angel! With lots of Hugs and Kisses From GREAT-uncle Germain and Great-Auntie Angela and cousins Treasure, Benjamin, Kimora-Lee & Kimisha-Ann Capissisit P.S Bring her home soon...I wanna see her boodoo cheeks again!!

BIRTHDAYS - 101

We would like to wish our uncle whom we admire alot Paul Coonishish (Jr) a Happy Birthday on May 2/07. We also want to thank you for giving ur love to us, you always seem to makes us feel extra special. We admire you for that. Have a joyous year with God's love poured out on you. We love you soo Much, Julianna & Ashlyn Coonishish

I wanted to wish a happy belated to my mother Shirley Agnes on April 11/07 & to my aunt Jane on April 26/07, and to my beautiful cousin Kara-Lynn Kavena she will celebrate her birthday on May 17/07 & also I want to wish my father Gerge Moar a happy birthday on May 27/07. May God Bless you many more Birthdays...Thinking of you always, With Love, Jo-Anne Moar

I wanted to wish a happy 27th b-day to my cousin Cindy Mary Neeposhon may 4/07. Happy birth day to you happy birthday to you happy birthday dear cindy. Happy birthday to you. happy birthday my good friend too. "coolness"...lol..May you have the best one ever!God bless you and your kids i miss you see you in june on your wedding..take care bye with love from your coudin all the way from waskaganish Racher..lol..bye

We would like to wish Happy 13th Birthday to a very special girl Shannon Wapachee on May 3, 2007 hope you have fun on your special day. and many more to come. and I am proud of you . In 2 months your finish your first year of private School in Stanstead in Montreal . and I know you could do it. With Love MOM (Anna & John Paul) and Brothers Adrian & Joshua.

We would like to wish happy birthday to our son Isaac Andrew Etapp on may 10, you are now 5 years old boy & each year you impress us, you are so smart & sweet.We love you so much & we want you to have the greatest birthday of all, you deserve it,you are now a big boy.Happy birthday!!!!Fr:Karine & Timothy Etapp & you're little bro Thomas

I almost forgot and to my niece Tina Longchap happy first mother's day to you I love you both from daughter, niece, cuz, friend and Aunt Rachel.

Wishing a very special Happy Birthday to my baby girl Denisa Dawn Hester

she will be celebrating her 3rd birthday on May 15, 2007. It seems like only yesterday you were born, I can still remember the day I delivered you into this world I was so happy that day that I had a little baby girl to love and cherish. Once again Happy Birthday hope you have fun on your special day Love: Mom Dianna (xoxoxo)

Happy Belated Birthday to my friend Nellie B. on April 19. Hope you enjoyed your day! Give a big hug and a kiss to your handsome son for me. Miss you both, and see you soon! From your friend Rosanna.

Wishing a Happy belated birthday to my beautiful niece April MacLeod on April 19. Another birthday wish to my adorable nephew Aidan MacLeod on May 4. Hope you all enjoyed your day! I love you April and Aidan, miss you both so much! With lots of love, hugs, and kisses, fr. auntie Rosanna & Robert

Birthday greetings to my wonderful sister Annie(Mattawashish)Jolly from Nemaska...You have been such a blessing in my life...you have inspired me in so many ways..I admire you for your tremendous strength and keeping the faith when things didn't work out in your life...Like the song goes..I know the Master of the wind...that song reflects your life...Thank you for everything, especially for all the love you had for each of us, your family...for always taking the time to take care of us when we were still little bratz...I love you so

much..from your "younger" sister..Emma Matt. xoxoxo

A special birthday greetings to our son, Victor Brien on May 1st. Hope you will have a wonderful day as you celebrate another year with your little daughter iesha and with Viviane too...Enjoy your day and may God continue to bless you and keep you safe...Kisses and hugs to iesha..With much love, Mom and Dad.

Happy Birthday to Stephanie Meskino on May 4, 2007. Hope you are having a nice goosebreak wherever you are. Remember to take a day off on your birthday. Have Erica do all your plucking for you that day. Happy birthday Steph!!! Love, Frances

To our son Jay. (Jabez Diamond) As the years go by you get a lil older.. this year you will be 4. wow, you'll be starting school too. You are such a sweet and adorable boy. Luv ya alot and we miss you especially when you go to Waswanipi home. You are a joy to have around. Happy Birthday my Sweet pea. Love; Mom, Dad, Israel, Isaiah, Seven & Soren. XOXO

Happy Birthday to my baby sis on May 14th. Hope your birthday brings you lotta smiles and laughter the way you bring to others. Love; The Diamonds.

Happy belated birthday to these 2 people first to Monique Saganash on April 19 and to my sister Miranda Otter on April 21, happy 18th birthday sissy! From: Stephanie, Romeo and girls

CLASSIFIEDS

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to My Brother Jason Paul Guanish on May 1st, 2007. We miss you and take good care of yourself. Hope your doing well in Waswanipi.

Happy Birthday to my son Kautnat Chescappio on May 23rd, 2007 and to my Aunt Jeanne Vachon on May 22, 2007. Love Always, Marianne Chescappio, Kawawachikamac

PERSONALS - 300

I would like to wish happy mother's day to my mother in law Josephine Etapp, I want to thank you for you're help & everything. You are a great mother in law & a great coogum & we love you so much. FR: Karine, you're 2 grand-son Isaac & Thomas.

I want to wish Happy mother's day to my mom, Josephine Etapp fr Waswanipi. Mom I love you & you deserve to be happy on mother's day. You are a great mother & thank you for everything you've done for me. I love you. From you're son Timothy Etapp, grandson's Isaac & Thomas

I would like to wish happy mother's day to the greatest women on earth my mother Mary Mark Rouleau, I just want you to know how much I appreciate everything you've done for me. Thank you for been there for me, you give me alouts

in my life, that's why I've became a real women & a good mother like you. The boys love you so much to, they say I LOVE YOU COOGUM & I love you to. XXXOOO FR: you're daughter Karine & you're two grand-son

I would like to say happy mothers day to these ppl first my mommy Emma Longchap, Sophie, B e l l a , H a t t i e , Maggie Longchap, Phyllis L o n g c h a p , Yvette Longchap, my auntie's Juliette Neeposh, Nancy Ottereyes, Caroline Trapper, Hattie Trapper, Mary-Jane Trapper umm and my friends Cindy Neeposh, Angel Voyageur, Queenie B. Swallow, A n d r e a Mamianskum, Karen T. Matoush Rebecca T. Etapp and all the woman I know here in Wask and at work too happy mother's day. Thank you for your love throughout the years. Happiness comes slowly, day by day. All you and Dad have given me remains, Not distant from the wellspring of my tears. Kindnesses can never go away. Your love has been my rock, despite the strains On all of us as separation nears. Under your roof, my love will always stay. Happy mother's day to you all.

On May 13, 2007, I would like to wish a "Happy Mother's Day" to my spouse

Maggie, our mother Charlotte Cox, sisters Emma, Linda, Violet, Barbara, daughter-in-laws Karen and Laureen, From Samuel

Happy Anniversary to my Cousin Cheyenne & Isaac Swappie on May 31st, 2007.

Happy Mother's Day to my Moms Elizabeth & Martha, Grandma Sarah and my sisters, cousins And all my aunts, love always Marianne Chescappio, Kawawachikamach

Police Officers: They put their lives on the line everyday; These men and women who we should thank; Instead we hurl accusations at them; We yell at them for mistakes we make; We kill them; They have one of the highest stress rates; Suicide rates; Divorce rates; And we have the nerve to beat them down; They save our lives everyday; But all we think about is how they are pulling us over; To give us a ticket, making us late; You are the real-life heroes of our time; Thank you for doing a thankless job; Thank you for making our streets safe; For us, for our kids.

For me; This goes out to the police officers out there in our communities. We've got to acknowledge their duties. This Poem goes out to them, especially to one of my favorite officers, Officer Murdoch. I want to

take this time to thank him for being there when I needed someone to talk to. Thank you for letting me cry on your shoulder when I needed one. Thank you for not judging me when others did. Thanks for just being there. You always knew what to say and do. If I had a trophy to give, I'd give a couple to you for the good job you've done! A special thanks to his fiance too, Pamela Capisissit. Thanks to the both of you, may the good Lord bless the both of you! From: A Waswanipi Citizen.

Happy Mother's Day to Margaret Niquanicappo in Chisasibi from Mary and Baby Charly in Whapmagoostui. We love you very much and miss you even more. XXX

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS - 400

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the our website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868, or check out their website at: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

Everyone at the Nation would like to wish all mothers:

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!



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